

Tajikistan



Independent Muslims

The government tightly controls religious activity in Tajikistan and regularly penalizes those who practice religion independently of the state, an issue that particularly impacts Muslims. Those who engage in unauthorized religious activity, such as giving or listening to sermons not provided by the state, may face fines or even imprisonment.



Mahmadsodyk Sayidov

RELIGION OR BELIEF:
Sunni
ARRESTED:
March 5, 2021
SENTENCE:
5 Years' Imprisonment
REASON FOR PERSECUTION:
Refused to give a state-provided sermon



Abdugafor Rajabov

RELIGION OR BELIEF:
Sunni
ARRESTED:
March 5, 2021
SENTENCE:
5 Years' Imprisonment
REASON FOR PERSECUTION:
Attended Sayidov's mosque



Aslamkhon Karimov

RELIGION OR BELIEF:
Sunni
ARRESTED:
March 5, 2021
SENTENCE:
5 Years' Imprisonment
REASON FOR PERSECUTION:
Attended Sayidov's mosque



Muzaffar Davlatmirov

RELIGION OR BELIEF:
Ismaili Shi'a
ARRESTED:
August 4, 2022
SENTENCE:
6 Years' Imprisonment
RELIGIOUS LEADER:
Yes
REASON FOR PERSECUTION:
Leading a funeral for a GBAO community leader killed during protests

Activists Abroad and their Family Members

The government regularly engages in transnational repression of human rights activists and political dissidents who criticize the government's record on human rights, including religious freedom. Authorities also retaliate against activists' family in Tajikistan in order to intimidate them and coerce the activists to return to the country to face charges.



Shohida Mahmadjonova

RELIGION OR BELIEF:
Sunni
ARRESTED:
February 2022
SENTENCE:
6 Years' Imprisonment
REASON FOR PERSECUTION:
Mother of a religious freedom activist living abroad

FoRB Victims List Stats 13 out of 2,125

Religion or Belief	# of Victims
Sunni	7
Jehovah's Witness	3
Protestant	1
Shi'a	1
Unspecified/Other Muslim	1
Total	13

Type of Abuse	# of Victims
Imprisoned	11
Detained	2
Total	13

Average Prison Sentence 5 Years, 3 Months

Reports of	# of Victims
Torture	2
Medical Neglect	1
Total	3

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Frank R. Wolf FoRB Victims List Background

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA), as amended by the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of 2016, requires USCIRF to:

make publicly available, to the extent practicable...lists of persons it determines are imprisoned or detained, have disappeared, been placed under house arrest, been tortured, or subjected to forced renunciation of faith for their religious activity or religious freedom advocacy by the government of a foreign country that the Commission recommends for designation as a country of particular concern [CPC]...or by a nonstate actor that the Commission recommends for designation as an entity of particular concern [EPC].

USCIRF developed the Frank R. Wolf Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) Victims List—an online public database—to implement this provision for countries USCIRF recommends for Country of Particular Concern (CPC) or Special Watch List (SWL) status. The list also includes such victims located in the de facto territories of nonstate actors that USCIRF recommends for Entity of Particular Concern (EPC) status, according to the same criteria.

Due to limited resources, USCIRF is unable to identify and document all victims that meet the statutory requirement to be included on the FoRB Victims List and generally relies on receiving submissions from outside individuals and organizations. As such, the information contained in the database does not reflect country, regional, or global trends. Furthermore, percentages highlighted in this section should not be used for extrapolation purposes nor interpreted as a particular group experiencing greater violations than another or a particular country committing violations at a greater rate than others. To support this project, USCIRF invites those with credible information on victims to submit information using the Victims List Intake Form at www.uscirtf.gov/form/uscirtf-victims-list-intake-form.

FoRB Victims List Stats Overall

Perpetrator	Victims Documented
Algeria	5
Azerbaijan	11
Burma	5
China	770
Cuba	11
Egypt	18
Eritrea	50
Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)	2
Houthis	3
India	55
Indonesia	8
Iran	339
Iraq	2
Islamic State in West Africa Province (ISWAP)	1
Kazakhstan	15
Malaysia	4
Nicaragua	15
Nigeria	9
North Korea	9
Pakistan	90
Russia	449
Saudi Arabia	46
Sri Lanka	1
Tajikistan	13
Turkmenistan	30
Uzbekistan	87
Vietnam	77
Total	2,125

Religion or Belief	Victims Documented
Adivasi	1
Baha'i	163
Bon	1
Buddhist – Hoa Hao	6
Buddhist – Theravada	3
Buddhist – Tibetan	76
Buddhist – Unspecified/Other	28
Christian – Catholic	46
Christian – Church of Almighty God	236
Christian – Jehovah's Witness	258
Christian – Orthodox	17
Christian – Protestant	130
Christian – Unspecified/Other	66
Duong Van Minh	4
ECKist (Eckankar)	1
Erfan-e Halgheh Practitioner	2
Falun Gong	213
Hindu	10
Humanist	1
Jewish	1
Muslim – Ahmadiyya	23
Muslim – Qur'anist	1
Muslim – Shi'a	39
Muslim – Sufi	63
Muslim – Sunni	385
Muslim – Unspecified/Other	237
Santeria	5
Scientologist	1
Shaman	1
Sikh	1
Yarsani	37
Unknown/Unspecified	69
Total	2,125

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Not Released

Khayriddin Dostakov
Shohida Mamadjonova
Abdugafor Rajabov
Aslamkhon Karimov
Mahmadsodyk Sayidov
Mukhammadi Mukharramov
Muzaffar Davlatmirov
Sadriiddin Mulloyev
Sirojiddin Abdurahmonov

Released

Bakhrom Kholmatov
Jovidon Bobojonov
Rustamjon Norov
Shamil Khakimov